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SUBJECT The CIA and Honduras

CHUCK SCARBOROUGH: From Costa Rica, the President flew to Honduras, where, according to a report today in the New York Times, the CIA is engaged in its most ambitious political and paramilitary operation in nearly a decade: 150 agents helping Honduras overthrow the communist government of Nicaragua.

Well, Mr. Reagan today said he could not confirm nor deny that report. He couldn't confirm it, anyway -- and doubted if the New York Times could.

Andrea Mitchell has more.

ANDREA MITCHELL: Before arriving here, the President was asked about new reports that as many as 150 CIA operatives are in the country. He said he could not comment on anything that has to do with national security. But senior officials have said that the covert action is limited to hit-and-run raids designed to harass but not topple Nicaragua's Sandinista government. They've said Americans are not directly involved in fighting, but are providing money and support.

To downplay the military connection, joint military maneuvers that had been scheduled between the two countries were postponed until after this visit. American officials say they will take place soon.

The Administration has pointed to President Roberto Suazo Cordova's year-old civilian government as a showplace democracy. But many Hondurans believe otherwise, saying the military is still in charge.

The talks between the two leaders focused on economics,